# **News and Comment**

#### Brenda Carter 1943-2010

Canadian wildlife artist Brenda Carter, 67, of Merrickville, Ontario, died 18 February 2010. Brenda was born in Calgary, but was raised in the Ottawa valley and later as a teen in Washington when her father, who was in the air force, was posted there. Her initial art training was in Florida and was dominated from its start by her love of animals and nature. In 1963, a return to Ottawa resulted in employment at the National Museum of Canada painting the backgrounds for dioramas. Also in the 1960s she worked for the Canadian Wildlife Service tagging Polar Bears and developed a love of the arctic. Subsequently, she met explorer-naturalist Tom Manning and was his companion on arctic expeditions and at his farm near Merrickville. After Tom died in 1968 she wrote a moving tribute to his life and accomplishments (Carter 2004). She painted not only northern animals in Canada but also those encountered on trips to Africa, Australia, Britain, the Galapagos Islands, and Central and South America. In the 1980s and 1990s she maintained her own gallery in Merrickville, and was a founder of the Merrickville artists tour which continues to the present. In 1999 she joined Ottawa bird enthusiast, and honourary member of the Ottawa Field-Naturalist's Club, Bruce Di Labio for Feather Quest '90, a challenge they set themselves to find and sketch at least 500 species of birds in travels across North America. They met this target in November and added an additional 14 species before the year ended. In 2005 she married biologist-artist Gerard Phillips, who she had met three years before while sketching at a bird migration in New York state. After an operation for a brain tumour in 2007 left her partially paralyzed, she trained herself to use her left hand and resumed painting, continuing to be productive until about four months before her death (Mazey 2010).

### Literature Cited

Carter, Brenda. 2004. A tribute to Thomas Henry Manning, 1911-1998. *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 118(4): 618-625.

Mazey, Steven. 2010. Obituary: Brenda Carter – Artist a keen observer of nature. The Ottawa Citizen 26 February 2010, page E5.

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Cuba, April 22-30, 2009 (Fernando Bretos and Julia Azanza Ricardo) — IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group Quarterly Update (Nicolas J. Pilcher, Brian J. Hutchinson and Roderic B. Mast) — BOOK REVIEWS — RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

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